

News

ARIZONA Department of Revenue

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DOR OFFERS ARIZONA STATE INCOME TAX FILING TIPS

The Arizona Department of Revenue (DOR) offers taxpayers helpful hints for filing Arizona income tax returns, whether paper or electronic. "We understand how the tax filing process can be difficult and time-consuming for some taxpayers," explained DOR Director Gale Garriott. "This is why we provide different filing options to fit the various needs of Arizona's taxpayers."

Those who choose to e-File can get information and access to approved software on the Internet at www.AZDOR.gov. Software can be purchased from a retailer or on the vendor's website. Prices and e-Filing fees vary greatly, so it is worth the effort to do the research. Some are under \$10 for preparation and electronic filing of both the federal and state returns. Before choosing a package, be sure to verify that the vendor supports all the forms and credits needed to file an accurate return. This information can be found on the DOR website, as well as the vendor's website.

Due to a cooperative effort between DOR and the Free File Alliance, over 50% of all Arizona filers qualify to prepare and electronically file their taxes at no cost. Free filing qualifications have changed from last year, so more taxpayers qualify. Visit www.AZDOR.gov and click on the e-File link for qualifications and a list of participating vendors. Beware! Each

vendor establishes its own free file qualifications. Make sure both the Arizona and federal returns are free before beginning.

Software vendors sometimes offer Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs); however, interest rates and fees for this service can be high. Taxpayers who e-File and choose direct deposit can receive the state refund in as little as 5 days, sometimes less, so a RAL may not be necessary.

Those people who are committed to filing a paper return can go to the DOR website to get free, fill-in forms that do the math calculations! Completing these online, fill-in forms and mailing them to DOR enables taxpayers to experience some of the same benefits as e-File, such as faster refunds and greater accuracy, all without transmitting information through the Internet.

Taxpayers may expect refunds in 4-6 weeks if they mail the return by the end of March and it is free of common errors. Avoid these common errors by following a few simple rules. Before submitting the return, verify:

- the math is correct,
- the correct table for determining the amount of tax due was used,
- all social security numbers are entered correctly,
- all W-2s are attached to the back of the last page of the return,
- accuracy of routing and account numbers if using direct deposit/debit,
- dependent information is on page two of the return,
- the correct mailing address is being used (they are listed just beneath the signature box), and
- the correct year and forms were used.

Generally, errors and delays are avoided with e-File, and you get an e-mail confirmation that your return was received. "Join me in filing electronically," urged Garriott. "You'll be glad you did."

Visit www.AZDOR.gov today to get all the details.

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